



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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Columbia man arrested after targeting elderly victims in robberies

Howard County police have charged a Columbia man in three recent robberies targeting elderly victims. Zayah Abdul Alhassan, 19, of Talisman Lane, is charged with multiple counts of robbery, theft and second-degree assault.

Police were called on May 14 to the 7000 block of Cradlerock Way at approximately 5:29 p.m. for a report that a suspect had followed an elderly female into the lobby of an apartment building and taken her purse from her shopping cart.

A similar incident was reported on May 22 in which the suspect stole a purse from an elderly woman's shoulder as she was exiting her vehicle in a nearby parking lot. On May 30, the suspect approached an elderly woman on a scooter, shoved her and stole her purse from her wrist. No injuries were reported by the three victims.

Through investigation, Neighborhood Community Resource Officers identified the suspect as Alhassan. He was taken into custody at his home and is currently being held without bond at the Howard County Detention Center.

During the investigation, Alhassan was also linked to the May 10 burglary of a residence in the 7100 block of Honeyladen Place in which the suspect gained entry by shattering a rear sliding glass door and stole cash. Alhassan is charged with first-, third-, and fourth-degree burglary and theft in that case.

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